

METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR INTERDIGITALLY STRETCHING POLYMER FILMS AND NONWOVEN WEBS

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

The method and apparatus prevent the formation of pin-holes or other breakage during stretching of polymeric films, non-woven fibrous webs or laminates in the cross machine direction. Pin-holes and other breakage are prevented by creating slack areas along the length of the product where the edges of the non-woven strips meet with the polymer film, pressing the slack areas into the interdigital stretching rollers without stretching the slack areas, and stretching the remainder of the web in a typical manner. The slack regions are formed prior to interdigitation by, for example, formation of a furrow, a fold or a corrugation.